

Statement of the Honorable Greg Walden
Full Committee Markup
May 9, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

Today marks an important step in this committee's effort to combat the opioid crisis, which continues to wreak havoc on communities all across the country. From our legislative and investigative hearings to the roundtable where we heard from families impacted by this crisis, it is clear that Americans across the country are asking for more solutions from their elected leaders.

Today, we will consider 26 pieces of legislation to combat the opioid crisis that I hope will receive bipartisan support – just as they did at the subcommittee level two weeks ago.

We know there is no silver bullet, no one-size-fits-all approach that will remedy the catastrophic effects of this crisis over the last decade. But much can be done to help vulnerable patients get the treatment they want and need, and to ensure these powerful drugs are not getting into the wrong hands. These bills will help protect our communities and bolster enforcement efforts, strengthen our prevention and public health efforts, and address coverage and payment issues in Medicare.

These targeted solutions, as well as additional bills the full committee will consider next week, represent months of work that the committee has undertaken to listen to families, providers, patients, law enforcement, and state and federal officials on how we can best assist them to take on this epidemic.

And upon completion of our markups this week and next, we will have fulfilled our commitment to report a package of bills to combat the opioid crisis to the House Floor by Memorial Day. I look forward to working with leadership to schedule floor action soon.

Today, we will also be considering bipartisan FDA legislation to advance a timely reauthorization of the Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act authored by Mr. Mullin, as well as bipartisan legislation from Mr. Latta to modernize how we regulate over-the-counter drugs.

Last, but certainly not least, we'll consider five important bills from our Energy Subcommittee.

In today's highly interconnected world, we're facing rapidly evolving and persistent cybersecurity threats. As the Sector-Specific Agency for Energy, the Department of Energy (DOE) plays a critical role in making the nation's electric grid and oil and natural gas infrastructure resilient to cyber-attacks. But DOE needs Congress to provide them with new tools to get the job done. Four of the bills before us today will do just that. They will help DOE strengthen cybersecurity preparedness, coordinate cyber incident response and recovery, and accelerate research and development on advanced cybersecurity tools and technologies.

I'm proud of the hard work of this committee and I look forward to moving these important pieces of legislation today and next week.